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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named		
Inventor	:	William J. Swanson
Appln. No.	:	10/723,762
Filed	:	November 26, 2003
Title	:	HIGH-TEMPERATURE MODELING METHOD
Docket No.	:	S697.12-0073
		Group Art Unit: 1732 Examiner: Daniels, Matthew J.

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL  
  
Express Mail No.: EV485713102US

Sir:

This is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on December 30, 2005 in which claims 1-20 were rejected.

I. Response to Obviousness Rejections of Claims 1-7

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Crump, U.S. Patent No. 5,340,433 ("the Crump patent") in view of Tan, U.S. Patent No. 5,142,211 ("the Tan patent"). The Office Action stated the Crump patent was "silent to maintaining physical and thermal separation between the heated build chamber and the gantry that controls motion of the dispensing head". However, the Office Action also stated that the Tan patent discloses "a partition for maintaining physical and thermal separation between chamber and gantry", which when combined with the disclosure in the Crump patent, would render claim 1 obvious. The "partition" relied upon in the Tan patent is belt 36 (shown below in FIG. 1 of the Tan patent), which is used to prevent the escape of dust or other materials (the Tan patent, col. 3, lines 62-65).